

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 05788.0170-00000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Giuseppe COLOMBO et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: Herewith

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTRODUCING IN CONTINUOUS A  
SUBSTANCE IN LIQUID PHASE INTO PLASTICS GRANULES

being a **Continuation** of International Patent Application NO. PCT/EP99/10258 filed  
December 20, 1999.

BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Before examining this application, please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert a new paragraph as follows:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application No.

PCT/EP99/10258 filed December 20, 1999, which is incorporated by reference herein  
and claims the priority of EP98 204 456.2, filed December 29, 1998, and the benefit of  
U.S. Provisional application No. 60/114,534, filed December 31, 1998, which is  
incorporated by reference herein.--

03426260

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 13 ,22, 23 and 24 as follows:

13. (Amended Once) Method according to one of claims 2 or 3, characterized in that it further comprises the step of submitting the granules leaving the drying chamber (70) to a soaking step in order to equalize the distribution of said substance in liquid phase into each of the plastics granules.

22. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claim 20, characterized in that said at least one spraying chamber (40) further comprises a shaped insert (13, 19) adapted to define in said chamber respective flowpaths of the granules facing each of said injectors (11, 21).

23. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claims 18 or 22, characterized in that said flowpaths are defined in respective open channels (14), axially formed in said insert (13), said injector (11) being oriented in such a way as to spray the substance in liquid phase into said channels in countercurrent to the continuous flow of the granules.

24. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claims 19, 20 or 22, characterized in that said flowpaths are defined in respective closed channels (20), axially formed in said insert (19), said injector (21) being oriented in such a way as to spray the substance in liquid phase into said channels in countercurrent to the continuous flow of the granules.

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REMARKS

The claims have been amended to conform them to U.S. practice. Claims 1-33 are pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:  20338

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06-0916-0000

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Appendix  
Rule 121 Amended Claims

Serial No. To Be Assigned

Continuation of PCT/EP 99/102,58, filed 12/20/98

Atty Dkt. 05788.0170-00000

13. (Amended Once) Method according to [anyone of the preceding claims] one of claims 2 or 3, characterized in that it further comprises the step of submitting the granules leaving the drying chamber (70) to a soaking step in order to equalize the distribution of said substance in liquid phase into each of the plastics granules.

22. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claim [21] 20, characterized in that said at least one spraying chamber (40) further comprises a shaped insert (13, 19) adapted to define in said chamber respective flowpaths of the granules facing each of said injectors (11, 21).

23. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claims 18 [and] or 22, characterized in that said flowpaths are defined in respective open channels (14), axially formed in said insert (13), said injector (11) being oriented in such a way as to spray the substance in liquid phase into said channels in countercurrent to the continuous flow of the granules.

24. (Amended Once) Apparatus (1) according to claims 19, 20 [and] or 22, characterized in that said flowpaths are defined in respective closed channels (20), axially formed in said insert (19), said injector (21) being oriented in such a way as to spray the substance in liquid phase into said channels in countercurrent to the continuous flow of the granules.